

# NEW JERSEY MILITIA NEWSLETTER

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*All persons are by nature free and independent, and have certain natural and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.*

-- Article 1, Section 1, New Jersey State Constitution

## Capitol rioters' tears, remorse don't spare them from jail

Florida business owner Robert Palmer cheered on the violence at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 before he joined the fray. Screaming obscenities, he hurled a wooden plank and a fire extinguisher at police officers trying to ward off the mob.

Nearly a year later, Palmer fought back tears when he faced U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan who sentenced him Dec. 17 to more than five years in prison. He said he was "horrified, absolutely devastated" by what he had done.

Judges are hearing tearful expressions of remorse — and a litany of excuses — from rioters paying a price for joining the Jan. 6 insurrection, even as others try to play down the deadly attack on a seat of American democracy. Many rioters have said they lost jobs and friends after their mob of Donald Trump loyalists disrupted the certification of Joe Biden's presidential victory.

So far, 71 people have been sentenced: 31 to time served; 18 to home confinement; 22 to probation without house arrest.

But rioters who assaulted police officers have gotten years behind bars.

The Justice Department has taken heat for not charging anyone with sedition or treason.

More than 220 people have been charged with assaulting or impeding law enforcement officers at the Capitol, according to the DOJ. Three of them have been sentenced to prison terms from three years to just over five years.

The rioters' refrains before the judges are often the same: They were caught up in the moment or just

following the crowd into the Capitol. They didn't see any violence or vandalism. They thought police were letting them enter the building. They insist they went there to peacefully protest.

But thousands of hours of videos from surveillance cameras, mobile phones and police body cameras captured them reveling in the mayhem. Many boasted about their crimes on social media in the days after the deadly attack.

A seemingly genuine display of contrition before or during a sentencing hearing can help a rioter avoid a jail cell. The judges often cite remorse as a key factor in deciding sentences.

But Chutkan told Palmer that she couldn't tell if his remorse was genuine.

Some judges have rejected prosecutors' recommendations for prison sentences. Judge Trevor McFadden, a Trump nominee, said it is "almost unheard of" for first-time offenders to get jail time for nonviolent misdemeanors. Howell questioned why a short jail term for riot defendant Glen Wes Lee Croy, without a longer term of court supervision, would be the best way to ensure that the Colorado man "stays on a law-abiding path."

Many other prominent cases remain unresolved. Dozens of people linked to extremist groups have been charged, including more than 20 defendants tied to the anti-government Oath Keepers and at least 16 connected to the far-right Proud Boys.

-- AP January 2, 2022

## Judge refuses to dismiss alleged Proud Boys charges

A federal judge on Tuesday refused to dismiss an indictment

charging four alleged leaders of the far-right Proud Boys with conspiring to attack the U.S. Capitol to stop Congress from certifying President Joe Biden's electoral victory.

U.S. District Judge Timothy Kelly rejected defense attorneys' arguments that the four men — Ethan Nordean, Joseph Biggs, Zachary Rehl and Charles Donohoe — are charged with conduct that is protected by the First Amendment right to free speech.

Kelly said the defendants had many non-violent ways to express their opinions about the 2020 presidential election.

"Defendants are not, as they argue, charged with anything like burning flags, wearing black armbands, or participating in mere sit-ins or protests," Kelly wrote in his 43-page ruling. "Moreover, even if the charged conduct had some expressive aspect, it lost whatever First Amendment protection it may have had."

Defense lawyers also argued that the obstruction charge doesn't apply to their clients' cases because Congress' certification of the Electoral College vote was not an "official proceeding." Kelly disagreed.

The case against the four men is a focus of the Justice Department's sprawling investigation of the Jan. 6 insurrection. More than three dozen people charged in the Capitol siege have been identified by federal authorities as Proud Boys leaders, members or associates, including at least 16 defendants charged with conspiracy.

Last Wednesday, a New York man pleaded guilty to storming the U.S. Capitol. Matthew Greene is the first Proud Boys member to publicly plead guilty to conspiring with other members to stop Congress from certifying the

Electoral College vote. He agreed to cooperate with authorities.

Other extremist group members have been charged with conspiring to carry out coordinated attacks on the Capitol, including more than 20 people linked to the anti-government Oath Keepers.

Nordean, of Auburn, Washington, was a Proud Boys chapter president and member of the group's national "Elders Council." Biggs, of Ormond Beach, Florida, is a self-described Proud Boys organizer. Rehl, of Philadelphia, and Donohoe, of Kernersville, NC, served as presidents of their local Proud Boys chapters, according to the indictment.

On the morning of Jan. 6, Proud Boys members met at the Washington Monument and marched to the Capitol before President Donald Trump finished addressing thousands of supporters near the White House.

Just before Congress convened a joint session to certify the election results, a group of Proud Boys followed a crowd of people who breached barriers at a pedestrian entrance to the Capitol grounds, the indictment says. Several Proud Boys also entered the Capitol building itself after the mob smashed windows and forced open doors.

More than 700 people have been charged with federal crimes related to the Capitol riot. At least 165 of them have pleaded guilty, mostly to misdemeanor offenses punishable by a maximum of six months' imprisonment.

- AP News December 28, 2021

### **I got "cancelled" years ago for my opinions on gun control**

By Carla Gericke

*On this day 9 years ago, Dec. 14, 2012  
on Facebook*

"Children dying in schools - government designated gun free zones - is, of course, tragic. But wake up and smell the reality: criminals and madmen do not obey laws. Creating gun free zones only enables the baddies: When guns are outlawed only outlaws have guns. If you want to avoid this type of tragedy allow people to carry EVERYWHERE. The gun is only a tool that may kill - in the same way a fork can make you fat - it is the PERSON, the individual, who pulls the trigger. Want to stop this kind of thing from happening? Ensure individuals have access to firearms in "gun free zones" to stop or mitigate the crazies. And, for the record, those people aren't cops: when seconds count the police are only minutes away.

Understand this: Gun Free Zones Kill Kids."

[This post] got me "cancelled" from my most favorite job ever at NH arts org. First, they gave me a warning, then passed me over for the top job they'd promised me & hired someone else while I was out on vacation...

I've never spoken about this publicly, because I eschew victim mentality and, at the time, nine years ago, I couldn't really believe it was going down the way it seemed to be--this was before there was a term for getting rid of people in the workplace whose opinions you didn't like.

--www.carlagericke.com 12/14/2021

*Carla Gericke is an author, activist, and attorney who, together with thousands of libertarian pioneers, is building a consent-based society in the Free State of New Hampshire. In 2014 the 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of Gericke's lawsuit against Weare, NH police who claimed that she had no right to videotape them during a traffic stop.*

### **China: Xi'an residents in [Covid] lockdown trade goods for food amid shortage**

People quarantined in the Chinese city of Xi'an, the epicenter of China's current Covid outbreak, are bartering supplies amid continuing worries over food shortages.

Social posts show locals swapping cigarettes and tech gadgets for food. About 13 million have been confined to their homes since 23 December.

Authorities in Xi'an have been providing free food to households, but there have been numerous complaints on social media. Some residents said their supplies were running low or that they had yet to receive aid.

Videos and photos on social media site Weibo showed people exchanging cigarettes for cabbage, dishwashing liquid for apples, and sanitary pads for a small pile of vegetables.

One video showed a resident appearing to trade his Nintendo Switch console for a packet of instant noodles and two steamed buns.

"People are swapping stuff with others in the same building, because they no longer have enough food to eat," a resident surnamed Wang told Radio Free Asia. The news outlet also reported that another man had wanted to trade a smartphone and tablet for rice.

"Helpless citizens have arrived at the era of bartering - potatoes are

exchanged for cotton swabs," one Weibo user said, while another described it as a "return to primitive society".

Some were more optimistic though, and commented on how "touched" they were by their neighbours' kindness in sharing their supplies with them. - www.bbc.com January 4, 2022

### **U.S. judge blocks Pentagon from punishing Navy SEALs who refused Covid-19 vaccine**

A federal judge on Monday barred the Department of Defense from punishing a group of Navy SEALs and other special forces members who refused COVID-19 vaccines on religious grounds.

U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor, acting in response to a lawsuit filed on behalf of 35 special forces service members, issued a preliminary injunction blocking the Navy and Defense Department from enforcing the mandate.

Reed said the Navy had not granted a single religious exemption to the vaccine rule.

"The Navy servicemembers in this case seek to vindicate the very freedoms they have sacrificed so much to protect. The COVID-19 pandemic provides the government no license to abrogate those freedoms," the judge wrote in a 26-page decision.

First Liberty Institute, a legal organization dedicated to defending U.S. religious freedoms which represented the plaintiff service members, hailed the ruling as a victory.

"Forcing a service member to choose between their faith and serving their country is abhorrent to the Constitution and America's values," said Mike Berry, the institute's general counsel, said in a written statement.

-- www.reuters.com January 4, 2022

### **Violent Conflict Expert Envisions Right-Wing Dictatorship 'By 2030, if Not Sooner'**

Canadian political scientist Thomas Homer-Dixon warned that the U.S. could be ruled by a right-wing dictatorship by 2030, "if not sooner."

Former President Donald Trump could be "just a warm-up act," the founding director of the Cascade Institute at Royal Roads University in British Columbia wrote in a Globe and Mail op-ed published last week.

Trump could return to the White House and serve as "the wrecking

ball that demolishes democracy" to produce "a political and social shambles," Homer-Dixon wrote. That would set the stage "for a more managerially competent ruler" to "bring order to the chaos he's created," he added.

"We mustn't dismiss these possibilities just because they seem ludicrous or too horrible to imagine," the political scientist continued. "In 2014, the suggestion that Donald Trump would become president would also have struck nearly everyone as absurd. But today we live in a world where the absurd regularly becomes real and the horrible commonplace."

Homer-Dixon, a "scholar of violent conflict" for more than four decades, warned in his essay that Canada is "woefully unprepared" for the "terrible storm" that "is coming from the south," having "turned our attention inward" during the coronavirus pandemic.

"But now we must focus on the urgent problem of what to do about the likely unraveling of democracy in the U.S.," he wrote. "We need to start by fully recognizing the magnitude of the danger. If Mr Trump is re-elected, even under the more optimistic scenarios the economic and political risks to our country will be innumerable." --  
www.huffpost.com 1/04/2022

### **St. Louis couple who waved guns at protestors want weapons back**

The city of St. Louis has not destroyed guns seized from the couple who made headlines by waving the weapons at racial injustice protesters, and the couple is trying to get them back.

Robert Dierker of the City Counselor's Office told a judge Wednesday that the guns taken in 2020 from Mark and Patricia McCloskey have not been disposed of.

The McCloskeys, both lawyers in their 60s, said they felt threatened by the protesters who walked onto their private street during protests that followed the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Mark McCloskey emerged from his home with an AR-15-style rifle, and Patricia McCloskey waved a semi-automatic pistol.

Cellphone video drew widespread attention and made the couple heroes to some and villains to others. No shots were fired, and no one was hurt.

The use of weapons led to charges and the McCloskeys both pleaded guilty to misdemeanors. As part

of the plea, they voluntarily gave up the guns. Republican Gov. Mike Parson granted pardons weeks later.

Mark McCloskey, who is running for the U.S. Senate as a Republican, sued St. Louis, the city sheriff and state to get back the guns. He said during Wednesday's hearing that the pardons also entitle the couple to a refund of their fines.

The City Counselor's Office contends that the pardon obliterated the conviction, but not the plea agreement in which McCloskey forfeited the guns.

Circuit Judge Joan Moriarty took the case under advisement.--  
Associated Press January 6, 2022

### **Review: *Black Eye for America: How Critical Race Theory is Burning Down the House*, by Carol M. Swain and Christopher J. Schorr**

In schools and workplaces across the United States, Americans are being indoctrinated with a divisive, anti-American ideology: **Critical Race Theory (CRT)**. Based in **cultural Marxism**, CRT bullies and demonizes whites while infantilizing and denying agency to blacks, creating a deep racial rift. As **Abraham Lincoln** famously observed, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." CRT aims to divide the American nation against itself and burn down the house.

-- Amazon book blurb

### **Pinkerton: NYC's woke district attorney is creating the real-life sequel to 'Escape from New York'**

By James P. Pinkerton

Did you ever see the movie *Escape From New York*? The crime news of today brings that film back to mind.

*Escape From New York*, released in 1981, had a wild premise: Manhattan had become so crime-ridden that authorities simply built a wall around it, turning the island into a giant prison. That was an okay solution until Air Force One crashes there; the president survives the crash, and so a motley crew of commandoes led by Kurt Russell must rescue him.

Okay, so that's not *the* most plausible of premises. And yet without a doubt, the depiction of New York City as a hellhole was simply true; the crime rate at that time was as high as a skyscraper. In 1981, there were 2,166 murders in the city, and 1,214,935 serious crimes—more than one serious crime for every six residents. So, in a

Hollywood way, the scenario that NYC was a menace to the innocent and law-abiding was perfectly plausible.

Deja vu. Now comes wokeness, Black Lives Matter, and defund the police. And so in the past few years, crime in NYC has spiked. (And elsewhere, too, of course.)

Now comes news that might make Hollywood think that it's time for an *Escape From New York* reboot. On January 4, the *New York Post* scooped that the new DA for Manhattan, Alvin Bragg, doesn't really believe in prison:

In his first memo to staff on Monday, Bragg said his office "will not seek a carceral sentence" except with homicides and a handful of other cases, including domestic violence felonies, some sex crimes and public corruption.

We might observe that "carceral" is the politically correct way of saying "prison."

As the Manhattan Institute's Thomas Hogan points out: "Bragg will immediately begin de-prosecuting certain offenses, refusing to punish violations of certain duly enacted criminal laws. These include resisting arrest, trespassing, fare evasion, marijuana possession, driving with a suspended license, and any traffic violation. Manhattan apparently must accept disorder on the sidewalks, streets, and subways; and the police must prepare for resistance at every arrest."

Yes, resisting arrest is no longer rated as an offense. Got that, crooks?

Yes, Bragg is another one of those prosecutors who opposes law enforcement. Others include San Francisco's Chesa Boudin, Chicago's Kim Foxx, and Philadelphia's Larry Krasner. And in each case, just as night follows day, the local crime rate has zoomed. Yes too, Bragg is another George Soros production. Last year, one of the left-wing billionaire's front groups gave Bragg \$1 million.

In the blunt phrasing of Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR), "Soros prosecutors are a threat to the safety of every American."

In the meantime, it's easy to see what's going to happen in Manhattan. The cops will arrest someone for, say, robbery, and the suspect will be out on the streets again in an hour or two. In return all the bad guy has to do is check in on some "counseling" program—although, of course, if he doesn't, well, that's okay. Soon enough, the cops will get the message: why risk a lawsuit or even their lives to bust someone when it doesn't do any good?

And so the crime rate will soar to 1981 levels—and beyond.

If the new mayor Eric Adams can't do something, then the scenario of *Escape From New York* will once again seem plausible. - [www.breitbart.com](http://www.breitbart.com) January 8, 2022

## Man Who Purchased Gun for Kyle Rittenhouse Takes Plea Deal

The man who bought Kyle Rittenhouse an assault-style rifle when he was only 17 has agreed to plead no contest to contributing to the delinquency of a minor, a non-criminal citation, and avoid convictions on the two felonies he'd been facing.

Dominick Black, 20, was charged with two counts of delivering a dangerous weapon to a minor, resulting in the death of Joseph Rosenbaum and Anthony Huber, the protesters Rittenhouse fatally shot the night of Aug. 25, 2020, in Kenosha WI.

Black was 18 when he purchased the rifle for Rittenhouse. At 17, Rittenhouse was too young to legally purchase the weapon.

In November, a jury found Rittenhouse not guilty, based on his claim of self-defense. On Friday, Assistant District Attorney Thomas Binger filed a proposed plea agreement. It suggested Black would plead no contest to a pair of citations, and pay a \$2,000 fine, and the felony counts would be dismissed.

A hearing is scheduled Monday morning. The judge could reject the deal, or dismiss the original felony counts based on his ruling about the minors-with-firearms law in the Rittenhouse case. -- AP 1/09/2022

## Exclusive: Smart guns finally arriving in U.S., seeking to shake up firearms market

Personalized smart guns, which can be fired only by verified users, may finally become available to U.S. consumers.

LodeStar Works on Friday unveiled its 9mm smart handgun in Boise, Idaho. And a Kansas company, SmartGunz LLC, says law enforcement agents are beta testing its product, a similar but simpler model.

Both companies hope to have a product commercially available this year.

LodeStar co-founder Gareth Glaser said he was inspired after hearing stories about children shot while playing with an unattended gun. Smart guns could stop such tragedies by using

technology to authenticate a user's identity and disable the gun should anyone else try to fire it.

They could also reduce suicides, render lost or stolen guns useless, and offer safety for police officers and jail guards who fear gun grabs.

The LodeStar gun, aimed at first-time buyers, would retail for \$895.

Most early smart gun prototypes used either fingerprint unlocking or radio frequency identification technology that enables the gun to fire only when a chip in the gun communicates with another chip worn by the user in a ring or bracelet.

LodeStar integrated both a fingerprint reader and a near-field communication chip activated by a phone app, plus a PIN pad. The gun can be authorized for more than one user.

The fingerprint reader unlocks the gun in microseconds, but since it may not work when wet or in other adverse conditions, the PIN pad is there as a backup. The near-field communication would act as a secondary backup, enabling the gun as quickly as users can open the app on their phones.

SmartGunz weapons are secured by radio frequency identification. SmartGunz developed a model selling at \$1,795 for law enforcement and \$2,195 for civilians, said Tom Holland, a Kansas Democratic state senator who co-founded the company in 2020.

Skeptics have argued that smart guns are too risky for a person trying to protect a home or family during a crisis, or for police in the field.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), the firearms industry trade association, says it does not oppose smart guns as long as the government doesn't mandate their sale.

Guns coming to market could trigger a 2019 New Jersey law requiring all gun shops in the state to offer smart guns. The 2019 law replaced a 2002 law that would have banned the sale of any handgun except smart guns.

In 2014, German company Armatix put a smart .22 caliber pistol on the market, but it was pulled from stores after hackers discovered a way to remotely jam the gun's radio signals and, using magnets, fire the gun when it should have been locked.

-- [reuters.com](http://reuters.com) January 11, 2022

## 'The Timothy McVeighs are still there': fears over extremism in US military

Fears are growing among experts, politicians, and former generals about the rise of rightwing extremism in the US military.

Even as the US Department of Defense issues new policies to root out extremism in its ranks, some experts caution that the safeguards don't go far enough, leaving the next election vulnerable to attack as well as fears about a broader violent "insurgency" by rightwing radicals.

Paul Eaton and two other retired army generals wrote an op-ed in the Washington Post last month warning of the threat of a coup in the 2024 election. The generals warned that it could succeed with the aid of rogue military elements. They contemplated the possibility of a breakdown of the chain of command, along partisan lines, in the aftermath of a contested election with "rogue units organizing among themselves to support the 'rightful' commander in chief".

"It's the Timothy McVeigh problem: what did we know about McVeigh and what were we doing about it?" said Eaton.

The 1995 Oklahoma City bombing killed 168 people and injured over 650 when ex-army soldiers Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols parked a rental truck filled with homemade explosives outside a federal building and detonated it. It remains the deadliest act of domestic terrorism in US history. The two men harbored anti-government and racist beliefs.

"The infection of extremism into our state and local police and our armed forces is a very serious concern that needs to be monitored," said Eaton.

Eaton added: "There's a recruiting effort going on locally, they're going to school boards, like missionaries sent to the islands to convert people. The Proud Boys and Oath Keepers are definitely recruiting."

The 727 defendants charged in the 6 January Capitol riot include 81 with ties to the military, while five were active-duty service members. A 35-year-old woman, air force veteran Ashli Babbitt, was fatally shot while attempting to break the doors into the House chamber.

Last year army private Ethan Phelan Melzer confessed to prosecutors in the southern district of New York about sharing sensitive information about his soon-to-deploy unit with members of a neo-Nazi group in order to facilitate an attack that would "result in

the deaths of as many of his fellow service members as possible".

In 2018 marine lance corporal Vasillios Pistolis was imprisoned after assaulting people at the 2017 Charlottesville "Unite The Right" rally. Pistolis was discovered to belong the neo-Nazi group Atomwaffen.

From 1990 to July 2021 there have been at least 354 people with military backgrounds that have committed criminal acts motivated by "political, economic, social, or religious goals" according the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism at the University of Maryland.

From 1990-2010 there was an average of six cases a year, but over the last decade "that number has more than tripled to nearly 21 subjects per year".

The rules adopted by the Pentagon last month specify that service members are prohibited from engaging in extremist activities and could face disciplinary action for even "liking" extremist content on social media.

An Associated Press investigation found the new guidelines fail to account for racism among the ranks, membership in groups such as the KKK, and longstanding racial disparities in military justice.

The new guidelines don't prohibit membership in extremist groups like the KKK as long as they are not "actively participating".

"Seriously? You want to be in a foxhole with a guy who's a member of the KKK? Is that really what we want to do here?" said Eaton.

Experts see the far right and other extremists as actively trying to recruit members of the military, including foreign agents seeking to promote disruption within the US.

In a 200-page report published by Vietnam Veterans of America, Kristofer Goldsmith, an Iraq war veteran, found that between 2017 and 2019 foreign entities, such as Russian hackers, "coordinated online targeting of American service members, veterans, and their families" in an effort to disrupt American democracy.

"We found 10 different ways foreign entities were targeting veterans online," said Goldsmith, including through ads, fake veteran accounts that sent friend request to other veterans "in an effort to influence the election".

Goldsmith sees anti-democratic, white supremacist and fascist movements targeting veterans for the same reason as foreign adversaries "because if you get one,

they often bring their immediate social circle with them," said Goldsmith.

Goldsmith warns that the coming election is vulnerable to a rising insurgency. "We saw a violent insurrection, we did not experience a peaceful transfer of power. It was an attempted coup. Every failed coup is just practice for the next one," said Goldsmith. - theguardian.com 10 Jan. 2022

### **Oath Keepers leader and 10 others charged with 'seditious conspiracy' related to US capitol attack**

The Justice Department is bringing seditious conspiracy charges against 11 Jan. 6 defendants, including the leader of the Oath Keepers, Stewart Rhodes.

The seditious conspiracy charge is rarely used, politically loaded and has been difficult for the Justice Department to use successfully in the past.

The new indictment accuses the Oath Keepers, who allegedly recruited members, stocked up on weapons and organized to disrupt Congress' certification of the 2020 election.

One Oath Keeper was alleged to travel to Washington, DC, for a scouting trip ahead of January 6, according to the indictment which also accuses the defendants of stashing weapons at a Virginia hotel and were prepared to "rapidly transport firearms and other weapons into Washington, D.C." to support the efforts to stop the presidential certification vote.

Rhodes was arrested Thursday in Little Elm, Texas.

"We aren't going through this without civil war. Too late for that. Prepare your mind, body and spirit," Rhodes allegedly said in a November 5, 2020, Signal message. In December, Rhodes -- according to the indictment -- wrote of the electoral college certification that "there is no standard political or legal way out of this."

"All I see Trump doing is complaining. I see no intent by him to do anything," Rhodes allegedly wrote. "So the patriots are taking it into their own hands. They've had enough," he allegedly said on Signal shortly after the siege had begun.

Rhodes spent thousands on firearms equipment en route to DC, prosecutors allege.

The plotting didn't end with the Capitol riot, prosecutors say, alleging Rhodes and other co-conspirators met in Virginia to "celebrate" the attack and

"discuss next steps." In a Signal chat to other members of Oath Keepers leadership, Rhodes allegedly said that "Patriots entering their own Capitol to send a message to the traitors is NOTHING compared to what's coming."

The charges mark a dramatic change in the Justice Department's January 6 probe.

Previously, some Biden administration officials believed using the sedition charge could politicize the Justice Department's prosecution of the Capitol attackers.

Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a speech last week commemorating the Capitol attack that the department was "committed to holding all January 6th perpetrators, at any level, accountable under law -- whether they were present that day or were otherwise criminally responsible for the assault on our democracy."

CNN reported in July that Rhodes gave a voluntary interview to the FBI and that investigators seized his cell phone. He has denied all wrongdoing. - www.cnn.com January 13, 2022

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Seditious conspiracy is defined as attempting "to overthrow, put down or to destroy by force the government of the United States" and the U.S. Department of Justice has been wary of lodging such a charge in part because of losing a case 12 years ago, a former government lawyer said.

A failed 2010 prosecution against a Christian nationalist militia called the Hutaree gave federal prosecutors pause, said Alan Rozenshtein, a former Justice Department national security lawyer who teaches at the University of Minnesota Law School.

Members of the Hutaree were charged with conspiring to kill a Michigan police officer and then ambush the officer's colleagues who would have gathered for the funeral. But the seditious conspiracy charges were dropped after a judge ruled prosecutors had failed to prove that the militia members were doing anything more than talking about their hatred for authority.

Legal experts said that high-profile outcome highlighted a common issue in seditious conspiracy cases: that the charges might encroach on the broad free speech protections afforded by the U.S. Constitution.

In September 2020, amid civil unrest, then-U.S. Attorney General William Barr urged federal prosecutors to consider filing seditious conspiracy charges against people who engaged in

violence at anti-police protests. That move drew immediate pushback from civil liberties group, who said the seditious conspiracy statute should be reserved for more dire threats to U.S. democracy.

"The government has a strong case against the Oath Keepers," said Joshua Braver, a professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School. Unlike the Hutaree, the Oath Keepers "executed their real agreement to obstruct the peaceful transfer of power."  
-- www.reuters.com January 14, 2022

### Gallup poll on guns

An October, 2021 Gallup poll found that 52% of U.S. adults want stricter laws on the sales of guns (down from 67% in 2018); 19% want a handgun ban (the lowest since 1959 when Gallup first asked this question); 88% of gun owners say they buy guns for self-protection. -- America's First Freedom February 2022

### Book review: *Slanted, How the News Media Taught Us to Love Censorship and Hate Journalism*, by Sharyl Attkisson

*New York Times* bestselling author Sharyl Attkisson takes on the media's misreporting on Black Lives Matter, coronavirus, Joe Biden, Silicon Valley censorship, and more.

When the facts don't fit their Narrative, the media abandons the facts, not the Narrative. Virtually every piece of information you get through the media has been massaged, shaped, curated, and manipulated before it reaches you. Some of it is censored entirely. The news can no longer be counted on to reflect all the facts. Instead of telling us what happened yesterday, they tell us what's new in the prepackaged soap opera they've been calling the news.

For the past four years, five-time Emmy Award-winning investigative journalist Sharyl Attkisson has been collecting and dissecting alarming incidents tracing the shocking devolution of what used to be the most respected news organizations on the planet. For the first time, top news

executives and reporters representing every major national television news outlet—from ABC, CBS, NBC, and CNN to FOX and MSNBC—speak frankly, confiding in Attkisson about the death of the news as they once knew it. Their concern transcends partisan divides.

Most frightening of all, a broad campaign in the media has convinced many Americans not only to accept but to demand censorship over journalism. It is a stroke of genius on the part of those seeking to influence public opinion: undermine public confidence in the news, then insist upon "curating" information and divining the "truth." The thinking is done for you. They'll decide which pesky facts shouldn't cross your desk by declaring them false, irrelevant, debunked, unsafe, or out-of-bounds.

We have reached a state of utter absurdity, where journalism schools teach students that their own, personal truth or chosen narratives matter more than reality. In *Slanted*, Attkisson digs into the language of propagandists, the persistence of false media narratives, the driving forces behind today's dangerous blend of facts and opinion, the abandonment of journalism ethics, and the new, Orwellian definition of what it means to report the news.

-- www.harpercollins.com

### Kyle Rittenhouse is going to court to get his gun back

A Wisconsin judge was set to hear arguments Friday on whether prosecutors should return to Kyle Rittenhouse the assault-style rifle he used to shoot three people during a street protest.

Rittenhouse shot the men during the protest in Kenosha in 2020. He killed two men and wounded one. A jury last year acquitted him of multiple charges, including homicide.

Rittenhouse's attorney, Mark Richards, filed a motion Jan. 19 asking prosecutors to return Rittenhouse's rifle, his ammunition, his face mask and other clothing he was wearing the night of the shooting to him. David Hancock, a spokesman for Rittenhouse, said that Rittenhouse wants to destroy the rifle and throw the rest of the items away so

nothing can be used as a political symbol or trophy celebrating the shootings.

Conservatives across the nation have praised Rittenhouse, saying he was defending Kenosha from far-left militants. Liberals have painted him as a trigger-happy vigilante.  
- npr.org/2022/01/28

### Army conducting exercise focused on battling 'freedom fighters'

By Chris Menahan

The US Army is conducting a two-week "guerrilla warfare exercise" from Jan. 22-Feb.4 in rural North Carolina focused on battling "freedom fighters" and putting down a secessionist movement.

The exercise comes after Army General Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, embraced indoctrinating the military with critical race theory propaganda to help soldiers understand the "white rage" that led to Jan 6.

According to the Charlotte Observer, the exercise, called Robin Sage, serves as a final test for Special Forces Qualification Course.

Advance public notice of "the U.S. military's premiere unconventional warfare exercise" became a priority in 2002, after one soldier was killed and another wounded when a Moore County sheriff's deputy mistook Robin Sage exercises for criminal activity.

Pineland covers three counties in South Carolina and 24 counties in NC.

They could tell these soldiers they're battling the Chinese, Russians, Iranians, North Koreans or other foreign enemies but instead they have them training to kill "freedom fighters" with "Liberty" flags.

A recent poll from Sept 2021 found that 52% of Trump voters and 41% of Biden voters support secession.  
-- informationliberation.com Jan. 18, 2022

\* \* \*

"A Winchester rifle should have a place of honor in every black home." – Ida B. Wells (1862-1931), anti-lynching activist

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